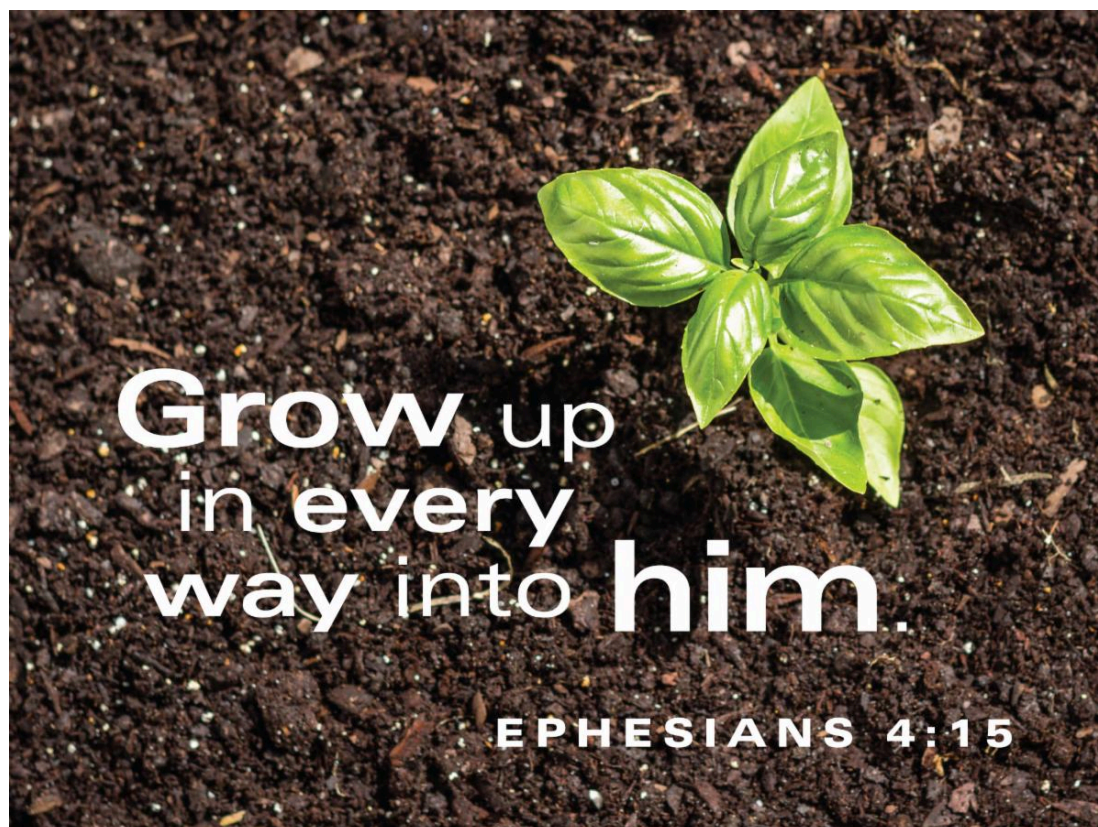




THE WEEKLY FIRST



This Sunday, we'll continue exploring Ephesians. In chapter 4, there's a remarkable insight into the Christian journey that can easily be overlooked: "So Christ himself gave the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants" (Ephesians 4:11-14a). The man whom God redeemed by grace and inspired to write Scripture admits he is still maturing from spiritual infancy to adulthood. If Paul himself is on this path of growth, then surely, we are too.

Last week, from Ephesians 4, I shared how God grows a church: spiritual character (4:2), maintaining unity in Christ (4:3-6), Spirit empowerment (4:7-10), and being the church on purpose (4:11-12). This week we will consider how God matures us personally and together. What are the marks and measures of spiritual maturity lived out in a church?



Nominations for the office of Elder at First Presbyterian are now being accepted. An Elder Recommendation Form may be found in the Narthex. Please read the form and prayerfully consider any nominations. Return the

Recommendation Form to the Offering Plate by Sunday, May 3. Elders will be selected at a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 28, and installed during worship on Sunday, July 5.



The Building on the Cornerstone spring 2026 project is essentially complete, and the work has been fully funded! This past week, a new rail was installed on the front porch, and two new rails were installed at the Fellowship Hall front entrance. All that remains is repair of the broken window. This will be the last update for the spring 2026 outdoor renovations. The Building on the Cornerstone program will continue and will consider other potential property improvements in the near future.

Click the link below for an April 2026 update.

[Cornerstone April 2026 Update](#)

[Sunday Bulletin](#) is Online!



Calling all youth! We will soon embark on a study of what "the Church" is, who "the Church" is, and where you fit in! Guests will share insights with us as we look at what God designed "the church" to be, to look like, and to do. **Lesson #1 is "The Church shows up for each other!"** This spring, let Michelle know if your youth has an activity (sport, play, recital, etc.) that we can show up for and support them!

Our next opportunities are:

Thursday, April 30: *Charlie March's football game at Carolina Int'l School (9545 Poplar Tent Rd, Concord) Game begins at 4:30pm and ends at 5:30pm. Please plan to drop-off and pick-up there.*

Saturday, May 9: *Mary-Gray Petersen's volleyball game at West Cabarrus YMCA. We will meet at Afton Pub & Pizza for lunch at 11:15am (5380 Village Dr. NW, Concord), then walk to the Y for her game at 12:30pm. Pick up will be at the Y (5325 Langford Ave. NW, Concord) at 1:30pm.*

Wednesday, May 13: *Oliver Townsend's baseball game at Virginia Foil Park in Mt. Pleasant. We will leave church at 4:30pm, eat at What-a-Burger in Mt. Pleasant, and then go to the game at 6:00pm. **Please sign up in the Narthex, especially if you need transportation!!!***

Saturday, May 16: *Cierstyn Lowder's soccer game across from S. Rowan YMCA (950 Kimball Rd., China Grove). Game begins at 8:30am and lasts about an hour.*



All Middle & High School Students are invited to the Cabarrus County Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Spring Weekend! The event takes place Friday afternoon/evening, May 1 and Saturday morning, May 2 at the Community Church of Mt. Pleasant. We will gather for worship, teaching, fellowship and fun! Dinner on Friday, as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday, are included. **Please sign up in the Narthex by THIS Sunday, April 26, if you would like to attend.** Michelle will attempt to provide transportation. ****The First Pres Missions Team is providing lunch at the gathering on May 2. If you can volunteer to help prep or serve the meal, please see Michelle.****

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Friday, May 1

4:00pm Check in
5:30pm Dinner
7:00pm Worship
8:30pm Small Group
9:00pm Dismissal

Saturday, May 2

8:30am Breakfast
9:30am Worship
12:00pm Lunch
4:00pm Dismissal



Mark your calendars for Graduation Sunday, May 17!

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate our graduating high school seniors, **Amelia Caskey** and **Abigail Malinovsky**. We will have a special moment of recognition during the worship service, and a reception in their honor in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.



Youth Sunday will be May 31! Our children and youth will lead the worship service using their talents for music, drama, and dance. Rehearsals will begin on April 29, with dinner at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall, and practice from 6-7pm. Rehearsals will continue on May 6 and May 20. "Dress" rehearsal will be Saturday, May 30 at 10am in the Sanctuary. See Michelle if you need more information!



The Friendship Sunday School Class is beginning a journey through prayer, what happens when we pray, and the practical application of prayer. This journey will take us from Exodus to Revelation. What role do angels have in the Christian's life and in prayer? If Christ is our intercessor, why do we need the help of the angels? Our sources will, of course, be the Bible, Tim Keller's Book on Prayer, John Piper, Desiring God, and the writings of the early reformers. If you are not already a part of a Sunday School Class, we hope you will join us at 10:00 a.m.



for more information.

The Thursday morning Ladies' Bible Study begins a new book this week. They will examine *The Armor of God* by Priscilla Shirer with the aid of a video study. All women are invited to join the group. They meet weekly at 10:30am at church. See Alpha Barger



The Cabarrus Women's Center is hosting "a Morning of Prayer for Life" THIS Saturday, April 25. You are invited to drop-by from 9:30am-11:30am to pray for lives touched at this location. The Cabarrus Women's Center is a life-affirming pregnancy support center. It is located at 163 Winecoff Ave. NW, Concord.



The annual Kannapolis Bible Teaching Association fundraising banquet will be held on Monday, May 4!

You are invited to join us at Shoe Show Headquarters (2201 Trinity Church Road, Concord) from 6-7:30pm for dinner, reflection, and celebration of what God is doing in Kannapolis City

Schools through this ministry. See Sam McAllister or Steve Goodnight for more information!



The South Rowan Bible Teaching Association is holding their annual Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner on Thursday, May 7th at First Reformed Church in Landis, offering a lunch or dinner option. Lunch can be picked up from 11:00am-1:00pm and dinner pick

up is from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Meals are \$14 each and include half a bbq chicken, baked beans, slaw, roll and homemade dessert. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Thursday, April 30th. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please contact the church office or see Michelle Walker.

Linda's Closet



Anyone who has two shirts
should share with the one
who has none.

Luke 3:11

Linda's Closet is open the first and third Tuesdays each month, from 11:00am - 1:00pm. Other Tuesdays will be work days.

See Sue Maiocchi if you can volunteer.

Current needs:

- Spring & Summer clothing for all, especially for children
- New underwear and socks for all



Thank you for donating to the First Pres Blessing Fence! See Sam or Kay McAllister if you can help with current needs:

*2 Gallon sized Ziploc bags

*ball caps

Prayer Concerns

Help us keep Prayer Concerns current with weekly updates. Email the church or note on a prayer card & place in the offering plate.

Church Family

- Debby Baker - cancer
- Linda Johnston - health concerns
- Jean Bost - transition to Greens of Cabarrus
- Tony Rary - multiple myeloma treatments
- Regina Starnes - health concerns
- Richard Little - treatment for multiple myeloma
- Mac Atwell (Lauren Goodnight's uncle) - recovery from surgery

Family & Friends of Church

- Trey & Semra Goodnight (Mark Goodnight's nephew and wife) - Semra' MRI and PET scans came back clear. She has 3 more chemo sessions, then surgery.
- Julie (the Bellotti's daughter) - recovery from foot surgery
- Natalie Burluson - loss of father, Jim Stowe
- Chalora Leece (Jason Leece's mom) - surgery to remove kidney on May 6th
- Sammie Dunn (Dave Argabrite's cousin) - shingles and upcoming chemo treatment
- Margaretta Cowan (Eric's mom) - in hospice at home
- Family & friends - loss of Richard Hough (friend of the church)
- Robert Ellison (Sparks' in-law) - declining health
- Meredith Milam (Stricker's niece) - undergoing chemotherapy for uterine cancer
- Karen Pless' mom - recovery from stroke and broken clavicle
- Steve Smith (Becky Seaford's brother) - chemotherapy
- Robert Hudak (Diane Belotti's brother) - recovery from spine surgery
- Thomas "Bran" James (friend of Pam Hooks) - 10-yr-old - undergoing stem cell treatment
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - cancer

Homebound

- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks
- Linda Bost - Best of Care under hospice care

This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, April 26

10 Cents A Meal

9:30am - Morning Coffee
- GraceFull Movements
Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

Monday, April 27

2:00pm - Dorcas Circle of Hope

Tuesday, April 28

11:00-1:00pm - Linda's Closet work day

12:00pm - NA

3:30-6:30pm - Peek NexGen

Wednesday, April 29

3:30-6:30pm - Peek NexGen
5:30pm - Youth Dinner
6:00pm - Youth Sunday Rehearsal
Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 30

10:30am - Ladies Study/Session Room
12:00pm - NA
4:30pm - Youth # Carolina Int'l (Charlie football)
3:30-6:30m - Peek NexGen

Friday, May 1

4pm - 9:00pm - Youth to FCA Weekend

Saturday, May 2

8:30am - 4:00pm - Youth to FCA Weekend

Next Sunday, May 3

9:30am - Morning Coffee
- Gracefull Movements
Rehearsal
10:00am - Sunday School
11:00am - Worship Service with Holy
Communion

Servants

Elder Lock-Up: Cookie Hamilton
Children's Church This Week: Roxanne Spencer
Children's Church next week: Sharon Stricker
Acolytes This Week: Landon & Noah Walker
Acolytes Next Week: Camryn & Cierstyn Lowder
Nursery: Roxanne Spencer
Nursery Next Week: Sharon Stricker
Ushers: Lynn Sechler, Phil Smith, Pam Hooks, Noah Walker
Ushers Next Week: Jeff Barnhardt, Eric Cowan, Mark
Goodnight, John Hammond
Greeters: Phil McLain & Roxanne Spencer

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS

Raegan Swaringen Sharon Cranford Tony Rary
Cookie Hamilton Chris Lowder Ken Sparks
Sue Maiocchi Phil McLain
Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator
Jeff Barnhardt, Session Clerk



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